CLAIMS:

1.   A method of choosing an optimal candidate value to be used for matching a block from a first image (10) with an area from a second image (11), the method comprising:

(a)   making a set of candidate values for determining an area to be matched from the second image (11),

5   (b)   for each candidate value from the set, determining an area to be matched from the second image (11), based on said candidate value, matching the block from the first image (10) with this area and calculating a matching error, and

(c)   choosing the optimal candidate value from the set based on the calculated matching errors

10   characterized in that the block is formed by pixels, a selection is made of pixels of the block from the first image which are visible in the area to be matched from the second image (11), and the calculation of a matching error is based on said selection.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the selection is made by

15   determining for the pixels of the block from the first image (10) what their location is in the area to be matched from the second image (11), and selecting a pixel based on a comparison with other pixels of the block from the first image (10) which are found at the same position in the area to be matched from the second image (11).

20   3.   A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the comparison is made based on depth.

4.   A system for choosing an optimal candidate value to be used for matching a block from a first image with an area from a second image, the system comprising:

25   • a collector (43), which is arranged for making a set (45) of candidate values (20, 21, 22, 23) for determining an area to be matched from the second image,

• a matcher (46), which is arranged for determining for each candidate value from the set based on said candidate value an area to be matched from the second image, matching the block from the first image with this area and calculating a matching area, and

- a selector (47), which is arranged for choosing the optimal candidate value from the set (45) based on the calculated matching errors (24),

characterized in that the block is formed by pixels, and the matcher (46) is arranged for making a selection of pixels of the block from the first image, which are visible in the area to be matched from the second image, and the matcher (46) is arranged for calculating a matching error based on said selection.

5.   A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the matcher (46) is arranged for making the selection by determining for the pixels of the block from the first image what position they have in the area to be matched from the second image, and selecting a pixel based on a comparison with other pixels of the block from the first image which have the same position in the area to be matched from the second image.

6.   A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the comparison is made based on depth.

7.   An apparatus for processing a video signal (40) that consists of a variety of images, comprising:

- a system (43, 46, 47) as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, for choosing an optimal candidate value (48) to be used for matching a block from a first image with an area from a second image (40), the system being arranged for choosing optimal candidate values for blocks from the images from said variety, and

- an image processor (41) for processing the video signal (40) to obtain an enhanced video signal based on the obtained optimal candidate values as determined by said system (43, 46, 47).

8.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the apparatus further includes a display system (42) for displaying the enhanced video signal.